

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below without prejudice to applicant pursuing one or more of the claims as originally filed in a continuation application.

Claims 1-9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:

a flexible member;

an end effector operatively associated with a distal end of the flexible member; and

an elongate handle extending longitudinally from a handle proximal end to a handle distal end, the handle being operatively associated with the proximal end of the flexible member, wherein the flexible member extends from an end of the elongate handle along an axis generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate handle;

wherein the handle comprises an actuator operable by the same hand used to grasp the handle for operating the end effector through the flexible member with a portion of the flexible member in a looped configuration behind the back of the same hand;

wherein the actuator is disposed on the handle to be operated by the same hand holding the handle without the use of the thumb or index finger of the same hand, while the thumb and index finger of the same hand are free to grip and advance the portion of the flexible member in a looped configuration; and

wherein the handle has an outer surface, the handle outer surface extending lengthwise intermediate the handle proximal and distal ends, with the handle outer surface having a maximum width portion disposed intermediate the handle proximal and distal ends, wherein the handle outer surface has a length that is greater than the width of the maximum width portion, and wherein the actuator comprises a lever, the lever extending lengthwise alongside at least a

portion of the handle outer surface, and wherein the lever extends alongside the maximum width portion of the handle outer surface;

the medical device further comprising a ratchet mechanism; and

the medical device further comprising a release disposed at a first end of the handle, wherein the elongate flexible member extends from a second, opposite end of the handle; and

wherein the release is operable to disengage the ratchet mechanism.

11. (previously presented) The device of claim 10 wherein the end effector is selected from the group consisting of a biopsy forceps, grasping forceps, and surgical scissors.

12. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a length of at least 0.5 meter.

13. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 10 wherein the flexible member has a flexible shaft having a length of at least 1.0 meter.

14. (previously).

15. (previously amended) The device of Claim 10 wherein the lever has a length that is at least half the length of the handle.

16. (previously amended) A system for operating a flexible endoscopic device with one hand comprising:

an end effector having a first configuration and a second configuration;

a handle;

a flexible shaft extending intermediate the end effector and the handle;

the handle comprising:

a housing, the housing being longer than the housing is wide, wherein the flexible shaft extends from the housing along an axis generally aligned with length of the housing;

an actuator comprising a lever extending lengthwise alongside the housing and operable by the same hand holding the housing to actuate the end effector from the first configuration to the second configuration; wherein at least the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the housing are free to grip and release the flexible shaft of the device; and

a release operable for returning the end effector to the first configuration.

17-26 (previously canceled)

27 (canceled).

28 (previously presented) The system of Claim 16 wherein the release is disposed at a first end of the handle and wherein the elongate flexible member extends from a second, opposite end of the handle.

29. (previously presented) The system of Claim 16 wherein the lever has a length at least half that of the handle.

30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented) The medical device of 16 further comprising a ratchet operable with the lever.

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